Financial assistance provided to NGO's of Madhya Pradesh

†3581. SHRI VIKRAM VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Non-Governmental Organisations in Madhya Pradesh which have been provided financial assistance during the last five years, for development project alongwith the year-wise details of the assistance provided to each organisation;

(b) the condition of water-level of catchment areas and tube-wells under the purview of these non-governmental organisations receiving financial assistance; and

(c) whether Government have made any survey or assessment in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for overall development of SCs/STs

3582. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Forum of SC/ST Parliamentarians' in the representations submitted to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998 have demanded allocation of funds for overall development of SCs/STs in proportion to the population of this community from Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of funds demanded by the Ministry of Rural Development in the Ninth Plan for procurement and distribution of agricultural land for SC and ST families; and

(c) the funds allocated and released for the above purpose during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Memorandum submitted by the Forum to the Prime Minister on 17th December, 1996, 1st September, 1997 and 23rd July, 1998, demand was made for the allocation of funds for overall development of SCs and STs in proportion to their population.

(b) and (c) The Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are intended to benefit rural poor of all categories including SCs/STs. As the Schemes relating to acquisition and distribution of agricultural land are area specific, funds are not demanded on the basis of population of SC/ST. However, wherever possible, Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for STs are carved out of the Annual Plans.

Legislation giving panchayats administrative and financial powers

†3583. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any legislation has been enacted three years back to give the panchayats administrative and financial powers;

(b) if so, to what extent the said legislation has been implemented, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the names of States where the finance Commissions have been constituted and the number of Commissions which have submitted their reports to Government?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 incorporated as part IX of the Constitution of India provides for administrative and financial powers to Panchayats. According to Article 243G of the Constitution, the States Legislatures had been vested with powers to make laws for endowing the Panchayats with such powers and authority to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. The State/UT wise transfer of funds, functions and functionaries with respect to the 29

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.